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3M Innovative Properties Company

Responsive to the Written Opinion dated January 3, 2001.

Attached hereto is a new claim wording (claims 1 to 11) on the basis of which the International Preliminary Examination procedure shall be continued.

The new claim wording comprises an additional method claim (see new claim 2) drafted in the light of the unclarity objection raised in item 1 of section VIII of the Written Opinion. Although Figures 2A through 2C show that the rib precursor is filled inside in the mold first and then contacted to the substrate, Applicants also contemplate coating the rib precursor onto the base and then contacting the rib precursor with the mold to fill the mold. Both alternatives are originally disclosed in claim 1 and Figures 2A to 2C. For clarity, the new claim wording now includes to separate independent method claims that recite each of these process step orderings.

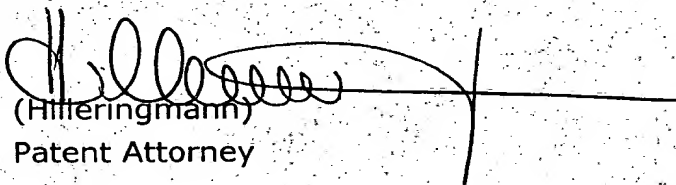
Original claims 2 to 6 are renumbered as new claims 3 to 7 and are dependent on both of the independent method claims. In order to overcome the objections raised in the Written Opinion concerning original claim 7, new claim 8 (which

bases on original claim 7) now is directed to an assembly that comprises a mold for making plasma display barrier ribs and a rib precursor disposed in concave portions of the mold. Such a combination or assembly is neither disclosed in D1 and D2 nor taught by these references.

New claims 9 and 10 correspond to original claims 8 and 9, respectively.

Finally, the new claim wording comprises new claim 11 directed to the base of the substrate for the plasma display panel being a glass substrate contacting the rib precursor disposed in the concave portions of the mold. This feature is disclosed throughout the original specification and, in particular, in connecting the embodiment shown in Figures 2A to 2E.

The Applicants feel that by way of the new claim wording all the objections raised in the above-identified Written Opinion has been overcome. Accordingly, it is kindly requested to issue a favorable International Preliminary Examination Report.


(Hilferingmann)
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Encls.